

Financial Aid News

WASHINGTON HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

Online resources for aid administrators

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- [HECB secure Web site for aid administrators](#)
- [State Need Grant](#)
- [State Work Study](#)
- [Washington Promise Scholarship](#)
- [Educational Opportunity Grant](#)
- [Washington Scholars Program](#)
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- [Other state aid programs](#)
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Higher Education
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SNG interim report due Feb. 6

The second State Need Grant (SNG) program interim report for 2003-04 is due at the Higher Education Coordinating Board on Feb. 6.

Colleges and universities submit the report quarterly. Information on the report helps board staff monitor expenditures, determine how many eligible students are being served, and ensure the fullest possible use of program funds.

For more information, contact Julie Japhet at juliej@hecb.wa.gov or (360) 753-7840, or John Klacik at johnk@hecb.wa.gov or (360) 753-7851.

HECB to seek rule change for SNG tuition limits Board will not consider recommendation allowing two associate degrees in less than five years

The Higher Education Coordinating Board has directed its staff to pursue a rule change allowing the State Need Grant (SNG) to exceed tuition by up to \$50. But the board did not consider another recommendation that would have allowed some students to pursue a second associate degree with SNG funds.

A work group of aid administrators and higher education stakeholders recommended the changes to the board's Financial Aid Committee earlier this month.

The committee accepted the recommendation allowing the SNG to exceed tuition, and the full board voted on Jan. 15 to pursue the rule change.

Program rules currently cap the grant at the actual cost of tuition and required fees. This change would affect community and technical college recipients who pay slightly lower tuition when enrolled for 12 to 14 credits. The planned rule change will allow these students to receive a grant based on tuition for 15 credits of enrollment. SNG recipients in this situation could receive up to \$14 above tuition in 2003-04.

The board also called for a review of the change in two years to determine if it should be continued.

The Financial Aid Committee decided against a work group recommendation to allow some students to earn a second associate degree within five years of earning their first.

Current law requires SNG recipients to wait five years after earning their first associate degree before pursuing a second, unless the degrees are earned concurrently. Members of the work group wanted aid administrators to be able to award the SNG, on a case-by-case basis, to a recipient pursuing a second associate degree within the five-year window.

"Committee members were deeply concerned that the fall interim reports for the SNG program indicate that the state will not be able to provide grants for approximately 6,000 eligible students," said Becki Collins, director of education services at the board.

"Given that the program, as currently authorized and funded, cannot serve all students pursuing a first degree who are otherwise eligible," Collins said, "committee members did not think it was appropriate to open the program to students, however small the group, who had already earned degrees."

Committee members said they would be willing to consider this change for the 2005-07 biennial budget if it comes with a funding increase so the program can award all eligible students.

Legislative update

Lawmakers, governor focus on higher education

State legislators, now in the second week of a 60-day regular session, are focusing much of their attention on higher education. So far, however, few of their proposals have financial aid implications.

The following are among the higher education and financial aid issues before lawmakers:

- **Supplemental operating and capital budgets.** Lawmakers are expected to revise the 2003-05 operating and capital budgets that were enacted last

spring. Gov. Locke's proposed supplemental budgets place a high priority on K-12 and higher education — including more than doubling funding for the Promise Scholarship and tripling funding for the Health Professional Scholarship and Loan Repayment program. The governor's higher education budget proposals are available online under tab 3 of the Higher Education Coordinating Board's [Jan. 15 meeting packet](#). Lawmakers will put forward their own budget proposals later in the session.

- **HECB Strategic Master Plan.** The Legislature will consider a concurrent resolution (HCR 4416; SCR 8421) to adopt or recommend changes or additions to the board's 2004 Interim Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education. The resolution will guide the board's work in preparing the final version of the plan, which is due to the governor and Legislature in June.
- **Membership on the HECB.** Senate Bill 6129 would replace some citizen members of the HECB with representatives of K-12 education and the public colleges and universities.
- **League of Education Voters proposal.** The League of Education Voters has proposed the creation of a state Education Trust Fund, supported by an increase of one cent per dollar in the state sales tax, to support improvements in K-12 and higher education. Gov. Gary Locke endorsed the proposal in his 2004 State of the State address.
- **Affirmative Action in higher education.** Lawmakers will consider at least two bills (HB 2700; SB 6268) to grant colleges and universities flexibility in considering the race, color, ethnicity, or national origin of prospective students in order to maintain a diverse student population. The legislation will respond to a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision that recognizes the benefits of student diversity and permits states to develop narrowly tailored affirmative action guidelines for considering applicants for admission.
- **Remedial Education.** Senate Bill 5139 would require recent high school graduates to pay the full cost of instruction if they require remedial education in order to do college-level work. The bill would apply to students who enroll in college within five years of graduating from high school.
- **Promise Scholarship.** Senate Bill 6165 would allow Promise Scholarship recipients who have disabilities to use the scholarship to attend college in border counties in Oregon and Idaho.

Next week, we'll provide a list of all the bills we're tracking on financial aid and select higher education issues.

Legislative hearings on subjects of interest — Jan. 19 - 23

Even if the date for a hearing has passed, you can listen to archives of the proceedings online at [TVW's Web site](#).

Monday, Jan. 19:

House Higher Education Committee Joint with Senate Higher Education Committee, 1 p.m., Senate Hearing Room 4

Work session:

- Summary of governor's supplemental budget
- Washington State Competitiveness Council recommendations for higher education

Senate Higher Education Committee, 1:30 p.m., Senate Hearing Room 4

Executive session, including:

- PSSB 5139 – requiring students to pay the full cost of remedial education at state colleges
- PSSB 6129 – changing membership of the Higher Education Coordinating Board

Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2004

House Higher Education Committee, 1:30 p.m., House Hearing Room D

Public hearing

Possible executive session

Work session:

- 2003-04 Washington Tuition and Fee Report

Thursday, Jan. 22, 2004

Senate Higher Education Committee, 10 a.m., Senate Hearing Room 3 (TVW)

Public hearing, including:

- SB 6268 – Consideration of diversity factors in college admissions

Online resources for tracking and analyzing legislation

Full text of bills and supporting materials: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/bills.cfm>

Complete legislative hearing schedule: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm>

Live and archived Web broadcast of all hearings: <http://www.tvw.org>

HECB 2004 legislative session site: <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/Leg/index.asp>